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## LIFE ON BOARD A STEAMER

DEAR EDITOR: Perhaps an account of the steamer arrangements may be of interest to those who wonder what a cruise of this kind may be like. There are approximately 500 passengers on board; some go only to Gibraltar and other ports; others will join us at various places. Some seem to be taking a leisurely trip to California, there to spend the winter. There is a special Tourist Bureau on board which is not unlike a Cook's office. A charming lady, known as the Social Director, with her assistant, takes pleasure in looking up the lonely, shy, and dissatisfied. The doctor for the passengers is a man of experience, particularly in the diseases prevalent in hot countries. He has prepared a leaflet which the company issues, giving prophylactic instructions to people travelling in the tropics. There is a regular programme prepared, providing some sort of entertainment for each day. A Camera Club has been organized, for mutual benefit and interest, with perhaps an ultimate exchange of successful results. There are to be lectures in both English and German with stereopticon views of that which is to come, so that we may enjoy intelligently the good things when we reach them. It is interesting to note that the wife of the lecturer (who is a minister, and conducts the service on Sundays) is his assistant, doing all the mechanical work of developing the pictures, and exhibiting the slides. The trip so far differs from the usual transatlantic trips, in so far that, all realizing the length of time they will be thrown together, lack the aloofness of strangers, and people are becoming acquainted quite rapidly.

Just a word for the way the Hamburg-American Line is taking care of its nurse. She has an outside stateroom which was originally two rooms. There is a real single iron bed, not a berth or a cot. There is a wardrobe, a cunning little book-case, and a real chair, besides the usual steamer washstand. The two trunks are not in the way, all of which means that her quarters are roomy and comfortable. I forgot to mention the electric fan, which, I am told, will be my best friend after we pass Port Said.

CHARLOTTE EHRLICHER,  
S.S. *Cleveland*, Hamburg-American Line.

(Miss Ehrlicher is making a trip around the world as a steamer nurse, and will occasionally send to the JOURNAL an account of her experiences. As any mention of a steamer nurse in the past has brought to the editorial office a flood of inquiries as to how such a post may be obtained, we wish to forestall them by saying that such opportunities are very rare and can only be obtained through direct communication with the steamship companies. We have no advice or information to give on the subject.—Ed.)

## STUDENT LIFE AT TEACHERS' COLLEGE

DEAR EDITOR: Judging from the questions asked me by those unfamiliar with New York City or with the life at Teachers' College, this must be an interesting subject to many, especially if thinking of study here. The advantages of study which the college offers are well known, but of the benefit derived outside the regular courses less has been said. As in other cities, the depth of one's purse determines somewhat the kind of one's pleasure, but I am writing of those things possible to every student.

Informally we gain much from each other by exchanging ideas and com-

paring the customs of our respective hospitals. Our scope is not limited to this continent, as we have several students from English hospitals. By means of excursions to various hospitals we have a chance to learn of different types and methods of work, for the superintendents are most kind in explaining questions of interest. Those of us who have used Miss Maxwell's book on Practical Nursing as a text, were especially interested in a demonstration class at the Presbyterian Hospital where we saw her methods exemplified. Other well remembered and instructive excursions were those to the laboratories of Rockefeller Institute and the Board of Health. At Rockefeller Institute we were much pleased to see something of Dr. Carell's wonderful surgical experiments and to visit the animals whose glad chorus and wagging tails assured us that they are pets as well as aids to science. At the Board of Health laboratory we saw the process of making diphtheria antitoxin, from the drawing of blood from the neck of a horse to the finished product.

At various times during the year we can attend valuable lectures at the New York Academy of Medicine, and at our own public health lectures we listen to men who are authorities on their subject. Among those heard in this way last year were Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, Dr. Jacobi, Dr. Flexner, Dr. Holt, Dr. Knopf, and others equally well known in their respective fields of work. Nor are our interests confined to strictly health subjects. We are privileged to attend general lectures throughout the University and often it is difficult to choose from conflicting ones. There are also many lectures worth while in different parts of the city.

There are exhibits of various kinds both in college and in the city. One museum exhibited an array of gifts suitable for children, which was appreciated by Christmas shoppers desirous of selecting wisely. The Child Welfare Exhibit and the City Budget Exhibit, with others like them, have great educational value.

Museums and libraries offer their treasures to art lovers and there are many chances to hear good music. There are frequent recitals of vocal or instrumental music at Teachers' College and at Columbia. The College of the City of New York, which is a near neighbor, gives two public organ recitals weekly.

Social life is carried on largely through the clubs. In these we meet men and women with different interests from all over the world which keeps us from becoming too much absorbed in our particular subject. Through the influence of our own small club for nurses, we know one another better personally than would be possible if the classroom were our only means of meeting. Probably the most informal gathering place is the swimming pool, which is one of our favorite ways for relaxation. Here past and future hospital and social workers lay aside their characteristic reserve, for who could be dignified in a regulation swimming suit? We enjoy the pleasant acquaintance made through the different points of contact in our college world, and the friendships formed here are among our most valued possessions.

I have asked many former students as well as present ones what they value most of their stay here. A summary of their answers is: the chance to study more extensively, unhampered by the responsibility of professional duties; "to get out of the rut" through new interests aroused and the ability to see life from more than one point of view.

A STUDENT OF THE NURSING AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.